

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are currently pending, wherein claims 1-4 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5-16 are allowed.

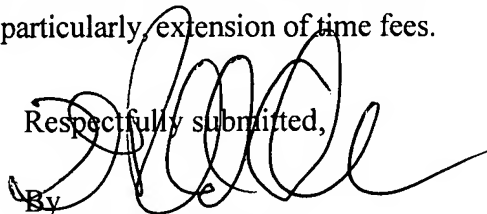
In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the language of the claim allegedly raises a question as to whether the claims "is directed merely to an abstract idea that is tied to a technological art." Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, in order to expedite prosecution of the instant application Applicants have amended claims 1-4 as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 101.

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle (Reg. No. 46,607) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



By  
D. Richard Anderson  
Registration No.: 40,439  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant